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Seventy-first session
Item 49 of the provisional agenda*
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine

Note by the Secretary-General

The seventieth report of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, covering the period from 1 September 2015 to 31 August 2016, has been transmitted by the Chair of the Commission for communication to the States Members of the United Nations in accordance with paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 512 (VI) and paragraph 2 of Assembly resolution 70/83.

* A/71/150.

16-14288 (E) 240816

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Seventieth report of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine

In paragraph 2 of its resolution 70/83, the General Assembly requested the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine to report to the Assembly as appropriate, but no later than 1 September 2016. The Commission recalls its report of 13 August 2015 (A/70/319, annex) and observes that it has nothing new to report since its submission.

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15 August 2016

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Seventy-first session
Item 70 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Central Emergency Response Fund

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report describes the activities of the Central Emergency Response Fund from 1 January to 31 December 2015. The Fund has continued to demonstrate its value in funding timely, targeted and reliable life-saving assistance to people in humanitarian crises. During the reporting period, the Emergency Relief Coordinator disbursed $469.7 million for humanitarian assistance through 464 projects in 45 countries. In addition, a loan of $7.3 million was approved from the Fund's loan facility. As at 31 December 2015, the Fund had received $400.3 million for 2015, meeting 89 per cent of its annual $450 million target. The shortfall of $49.7 million was largely due to a strong United States dollar vis-à-vis core donor currencies. The Fund's secretariat also completed reviews of its work in key humanitarian crises and disseminated the results of two scoping studies designed to assess changes to ensure that the Fund is fit for the future. In his report for the World Humanitarian Summit, the Secretary-General called for an expansion of the Fund to $1 billion per year by 2018.

* A/71/150.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/106 on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the detailed use of the Central Emergency Response Fund. The report covers the Fund's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2015.

II. Overview of the funding commitments of the Fund

2. In 2015, the Emergency Relief Coordinator approved grants totalling $469.7 million to projects in 45 countries (see table 1). Allocations included $300.7 million under the rapid response window and $168.9 million for underfunded crises through the underfunded emergencies window. The Coordinator also approved a loan of $7.3 million in October 2015 for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to bridge a funding gap in field projects. Between the inception of the Fund in 2005 and the end of 2015, $4.2 billion has been allocated for humanitarian assistance in 93 countries. Grants are allocated to United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). These are referred to collectively as "agencies" in the present report.

Table 1
Central Emergency Response Fund allocations from 1 January to 31 December 2015
(United States dollars)

	Rapid response window	*Underfunded emergencies window*	*Total*
Amount approved	300 736 172	168 913 836	469 650 008
Number of recipient countries or territories	35	20	45[a]
Number of projects funded	300	164	464

[a] Certain countries or territories received allocations from both funding windows.

3. In accordance with Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/2010/5, at least two thirds of the Fund's grant allocations are intended for disbursement through its rapid response window. Allocations from this window promote early response to humanitarian needs by funding critical, life-saving humanitarian activities in the initial stages of a sudden-onset crisis or in the case of a significant deterioration of an existing emergency. During the reporting period, the Fund provided support through this window in 35 countries (see table 2). The largest recipients were Yemen ($44.2 million), Nepal ($19.1 million), Ethiopia ($17 million), Malawi ($16.9 million) and Cameroon ($14.1 million). The top recipients were affected by conflict (Cameroon, Yemen) and natural disasters (Ethiopia, Malawi, Nepal). Several thematic areas also received high levels of support from the rapid response window of the Fund. For example, the Fund provided more than $58 million for assistance to 2.4 million people affected by Boko Haram-related violence in West and Central Africa. In July, the Fund made allocations of nearly $59 million to meet critical needs in eight countries affected by El Niño.

Table 2
Rapid-response window allocations by country
(United States dollars)

Country	*Total allocations*
Afghanistan	5 802 858
Algeria	5 051 640
Cameroon	14 071 268
Central African Republic	11 556 590
Chad	10 515 475
Chile	777 854
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	6 276 701
Democratic Republic of the Congo	6 792 923
El Salvador	2 710 000
Ethiopia	17 003 929
Haiti	9 157 785
Honduras	2 187 908
Iraq	4 490 040
Libya	1 491 012
Madagascar	2 294 798
Malawi	16 925 025
Mauritania	2 532 163
Mozambique	3 996 365
Myanmar	10 405 409
Nepal	19 113 716
Niger	13 741 648
Nigeria	9 889 075
Pakistan	11 000 547
Peru	914 395
Philippines	1 512 074
Rwanda	7 984 746
Somalia	5 300 084
South Sudan	13 446 494
Sudan	9 079 147
Uganda	3 238 788
Ukraine	4 920 172
United Republic of Tanzania	9 156 319
Vanuatu	5 038 408
Yemen	44 250 104
Zimbabwe	8 110 712
Total	**300 736 172**

4. Up to one third of the Fund's allocations are intended for underfunded emergencies. These allocations are made during two rounds and allow partners to carry out life-saving activities in places where humanitarian assistance is chronically underfunded. Such allocations help to draw attention to gaps in humanitarian response and to places where donor interest may have waned. In 2015, the Emergency Relief Coordinator approved $168.9 million from this window for 20 countries. The highest amounts went to humanitarian operations in response to the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic ($77.4 million across six countries), the Horn of Africa ($33 million across three countries) and the Darfur crisis ($21.1 million). Most funding for the top recipients from this window went to assist conflict-affected people. Funds for Ethiopia and Somalia also supported response to drought. A total of $98.5 million was allocated in the first round; $70.5 million was allocated in the second round (see table 3).

Table 3
Underfunded-emergency window allocations by country
(United States dollars)

Country	*First round*	*Second round*	*Total*
Afghanistan		7 983 646	7 983 646
Bangladesh		2 992 959	2 992 959
Burundi	2 495 246		2 495 246
Chad		5 998 567	5 998 567
Colombia	2 994 382		2 994 382
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	2 000 285		2 000 285
Democratic Republic of the Congo	8 047 670		8 047 670
Djibouti	3 000 059		3 000 059
Egypt	3 500 065		3 500 065
Eritrea		2 993 896	2 993 896
Ethiopia		10 015 968	10 015 968
Iraq	7 988 899		7 988 899
Jordan	9 000 346		9 000 346
Lebanon	18 004 139		18 004 139
Myanmar		5 367 651	5 367 651
Rwanda	2 498 220		2 498 220
Somalia		19 989 234	19 989 234
Sudan		15 116 739	15 116 739
Syrian Arab Republic	29 926 021		29 926 021
Turkey	8 999 844		8 999 844
Total	**98 455 176**	**70 458 660**	**168 913 836**

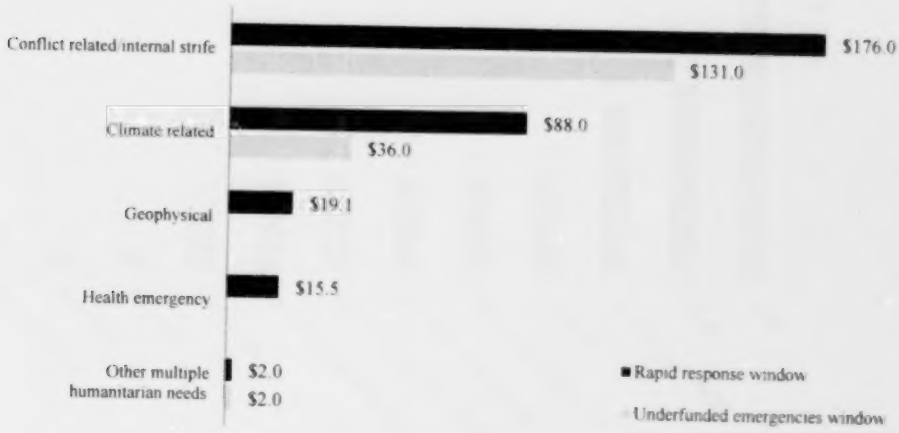
5. In 2015, partners used Fund allocations to assist people facing a range of humanitarian emergencies (see figure I). Nearly two thirds (65 per cent) went to projects to support conflict-affected people or people facing needs resulting from internal strife. This was a jump of more than 10 per cent from 2014, when 54.5 per cent of disbursements went to support conflict-affected people. The highest amounts

went to Yemen ($44.2 million), the Syrian Arab Republic ($29.9 million), the Sudan ($22.2 million), Lebanon ($18 million), Chad ($16.5 million), Cameroon ($14.1 million) and South Sudan ($13.4 million).

Figure I

Central Emergency Response Fund, 2015 allocations by emergency type

(Millions of United States dollars)



6. The Fund's second major focus in 2015 was climate-related emergencies. More than one quarter of all disbursements ($124 million) assisted people affected by such events, a substantial increase compared with $41.5 million in 2014. The high 2015 allocations in this area were partly driven by the response to El Niño. In addition to the $124 million, $19.1 million was used for post-earthquake relief in Nepal.

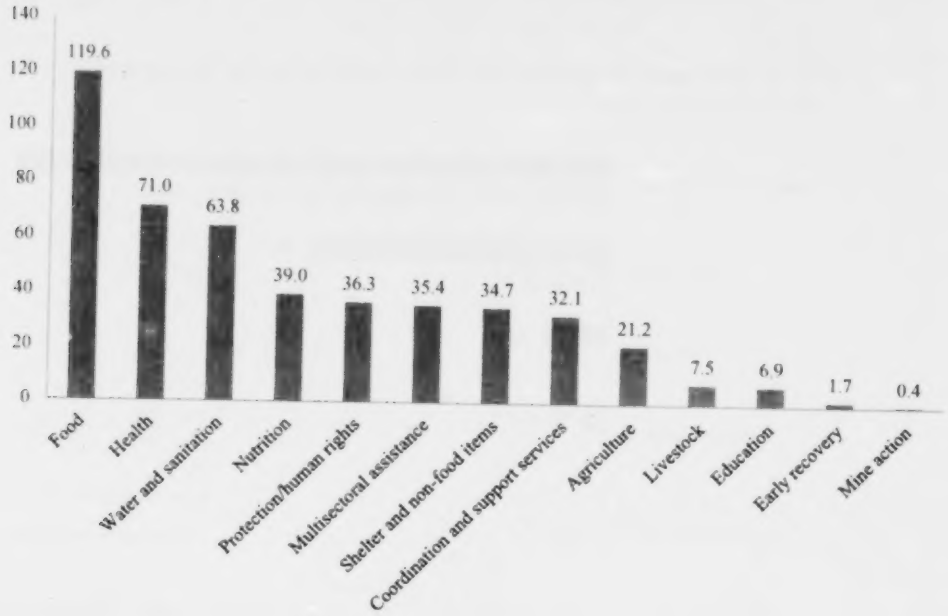
7. In terms of sectors, nearly one third ($148.3 million) of all allocations were for food security interventions.[1] Food- and nutrition-related needs accounted for nearly 40 per cent of the Fund allocations. Of this combined total of $187.3 million for food security and nutrition-related interventions, $98.7 million was spent on conflict-related requirements and $83.7 million on climate-related needs (see figure II).

[1] A combination of food aid and support for agriculture and livelihoods.

Figure II

Central Emergency Response Fund, 2015 grant allocations by sector

(Millions of United States dollars)



8. Water and sanitation interventions accounted for $63.8 million of 2015 allocations. Of this amount, $40.5 million was provided through the rapid response window. Protection interventions accounted for $36.3 million and emergency shelter and non-food items accounted for $34.7 million. The Fund provided about $35.4 million for multisectoral interventions, for example support to vulnerable asylum seekers, refugees and mixed migrants with basic needs and rehabilitation interventions. In addition, $32.1 million was allocated for coordination and support services. This was a decline from the $41.2 million allocated to this sector in 2014.

9. In 2015 there was a regional shift in the allocation of grants from the Fund compared with 2014. A total of $122.7 million was allocated for interventions in the Middle East[2] in 2015, which represented 26 per cent of all allocations compared with 10.9 per cent in 2014. Nearly all allocations to the Middle East were related to conflict.

10. Humanitarian response in Africa continued to receive the highest share of Fund allocations, at $245.8 million, or 52 per cent of all 2015 allocations. This was driven largely by needs related to El Niño in Ethiopia, Malawi, Somalia and Zimbabwe, and by conflict-related humanitarian needs in Cameroon, Chad, Somalia, South Sudan and the Sudan. However, this share represented a decline from the 73.5 per cent allocated to the region in 2014.

[2] Not including $3.5 million allocated for Egypt to assist refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic, which is counted under the Africa regional allocation.

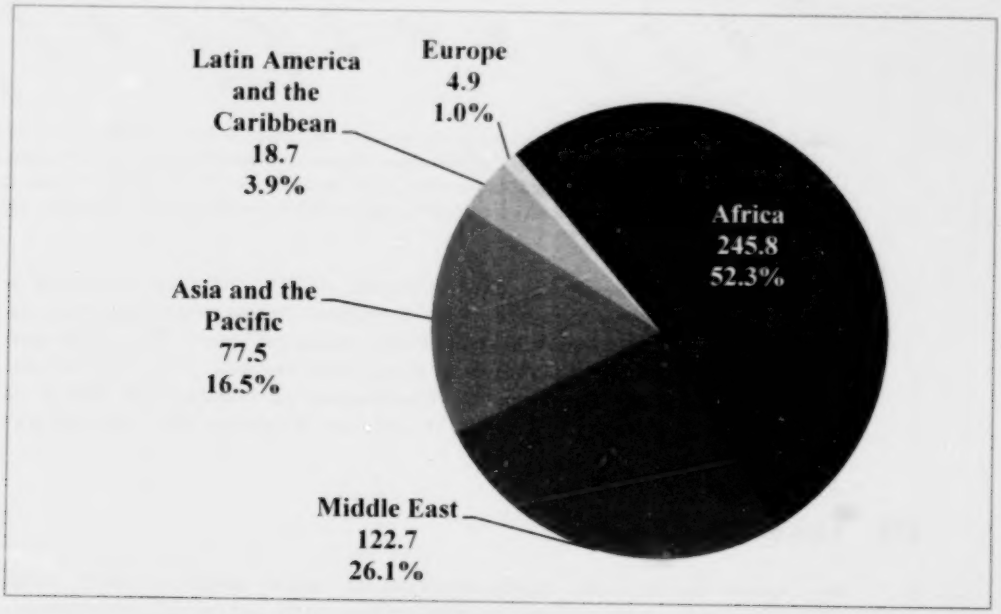
11. A total of $77.5 million was allocated to address humanitarian needs in Asia and the Pacific, representing nearly 16.5 per cent of all allocations in 2015, more than double the share compared with 2014. A total of $23.2 million to the region was for climate-related emergencies, not including the $19.1 million allocated for relief in Nepal.

12. A total of $18.7 million was allocated to address humanitarian needs in Latin America and the Caribbean, mainly through the rapid response window for climate-related needs, and for the lingering cholera epidemic in Haiti. Through the underfunded emergencies window, the Fund allocated nearly $3 million for needs related to protracted internal strife in Colombia. Allocations to this region were 3.9 per cent of the Fund's total allocations, a drop from 5.9 per cent of total allocations in 2014 (see figure III).

Figure III

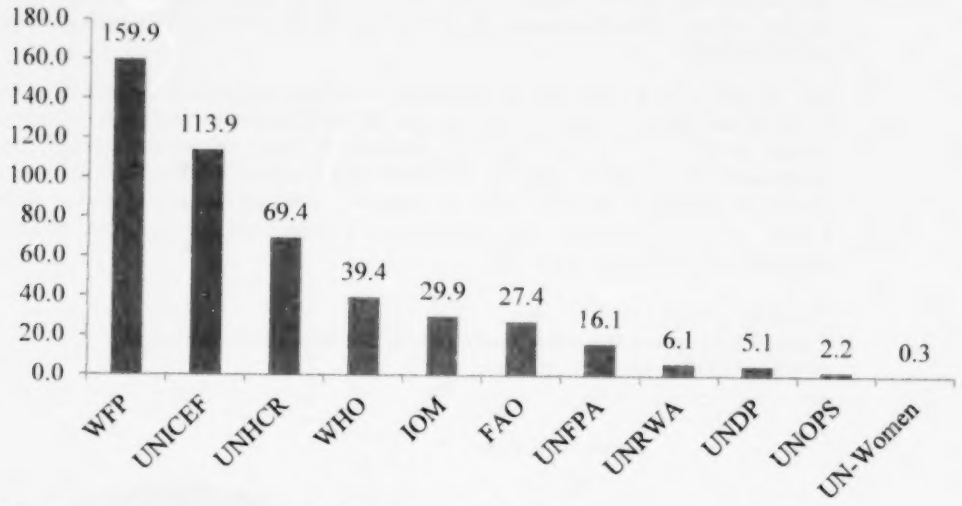
Central Emergency Response Fund, 2015 grant allocations by region

(Millions of United States dollars and percentage)



13. As in previous years, the agencies receiving the largest grant allocations were the World Food Programme (WFP) ($159.9 million for 83 projects in 40 countries), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) ($113.9 million for 131 projects in 41 countries) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) ($69.4 million for 62 projects in 31 countries) (see figure IV for details).

Figure IV
Central Emergency Response Fund, 2015 grant allocations by agency
(Millions of United States dollars)



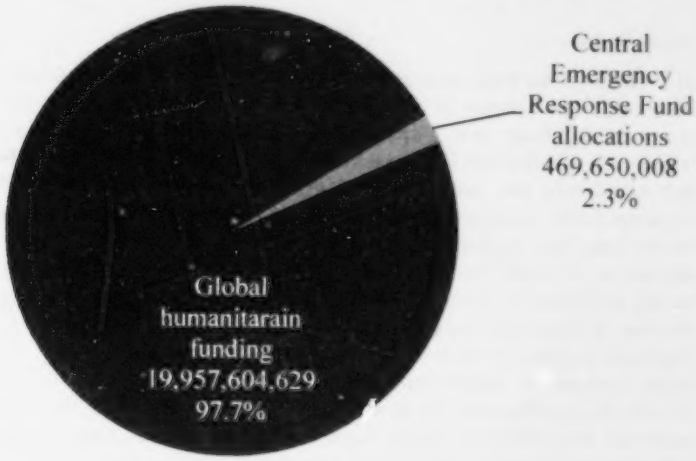
Abbreviations: FAO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; UNDP, United Nations Development Programme; UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund; UNOPS, United Nations Office for Project Services; UNRWA, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East; UN-Women, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women; and WHO, World Health Organization.

14. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/119, the Fund maintains a $30 million loan facility to provide loans to eligible organizations while they are mobilizing resources. In March 2015, WFP fully repaid the loan of $27 million used to support the response to the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic. A $7.3 million loan was approved for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in October 2015 to bridge the funding gap in a number of field projects. This loan was fully repaid by the end of 2015.

III. Use of the Fund

15. Global humanitarian needs continued at record levels in 2015. Some 125 million people were affected by humanitarian crises and overall disbursements in 2015 reflected the high levels of need in numerous countries. Global humanitarian funding for 2015 reached $19.9 billion. The Fund's disbursements represented 2.3 per cent of that funding (see figure V).

Figure V
Central Emergency Response Fund, 2015 allocations as a percentage of global funding
(United States dollars and percentage)



Source: Financial Tracking Service of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

16. The Fund continued to ensure that allocations focused on the most urgent life-saving needs of crisis-affected people. In an increasingly complex operational environment, strategic decisions help to maximize the impact of limited Fund allocations in meeting beneficiaries' urgent needs. Doing so requires planning and prioritization of activities by humanitarian country teams and resident coordinators/humanitarian coordinators through identifying the most critical needs to target with Fund allocations.

17. For every Fund application, the resident coordinator and/or the humanitarian coordinator leads a process by the humanitarian country team to develop submissions that prioritize essential life-saving activities in a strategic, focused and coherent manner, aiming to achieve specific common humanitarian objectives.

18. The Emergency Relief Coordinator has used allocations from the Fund to highlight a new or emerging crisis, or to draw attention to the regional implications of a crisis or a situation where there is a dire need for funding for humanitarian action. In this sense, Fund allocations can act as a catalyst for global advocacy. Examples of the strategic use of Fund allocations in 2015 are highlighted below.

A. The Fund and system-wide level-three emergencies and protracted crises

19. In 2015, the Fund allocated grants for humanitarian response in level-three emergencies in Iraq, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. For these crises, 2015 brought intensified and escalated needs that required funding through the rapid response window (Iraq, South Sudan and Yemen) and the underfunded emergencies window (Syrian Arab Republic). The aim is for the Fund to support an emergency only once. However, a significant deterioration in a protracted crisis, a

flare up of conflict, or new access to people requiring immediate assistance may trigger additional allocations, such as in South Sudan and Yemen. The Emergency Relief Coordinator allocated $152 million for the humanitarian response related to these level-three crises, or about one third of 2015 allocations.

South Sudan

20. In 2015, the Fund allocated $13.4 million for response in South Sudan. Grants were made to a number of agencies to provide immediate life-saving assistance for needs arising from new displacement due to fighting in the greater Upper Nile region. The conflict cut off hundreds of thousands of people from their livelihoods and eliminated the year's normal growing season. The Fund allocated rapid-response funds to support newly displaced persons in June and emergency survival kits in July, and in response to a cholera outbreak in August. Much of the Fund's allocations to South Sudan supported rapid-response mechanisms that provided life-saving assistance in difficult-to-reach areas. Agencies used more than $5 million to develop and provide (sometimes by airdrops) 30,000 emergency survival kits to displaced people. The kits contain mosquito nets, vegetable seeds, fishing supplies, water containers, water-purification tablets, oral rehydration salts, nutritional biscuits for children and kitchen items. An additional $7.1 million was disbursed to assist the new influx of South Sudanese refugees in the Sudan's White Nile State with emergency water, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition and protection.

Yemen

21. In 2015, the Fund allocated $44.3 million for humanitarian aid in Yemen. This was the highest amount of funding provided for a response in any single country in 2015. The Fund provided rapid-response allocations for interventions in June, July, September, October and November 2015 following a spike in the conflict in March, and in response to the severe deterioration of the situation during the year. By the end of 2015, more than 21.2 million Yemenis, or four out of every five people, required humanitarian assistance. Funding went towards improving health, nutrition, protection, water, sanitation and food security, and for providing shelter and non-food items in a holistic response to widespread need. The Fund also allocated $5.3 million to help Yemeni refugees in Somalia.

Iraq

22. The Fund made allocations totalling $12.5 million for humanitarian assistance in Iraq in 2015. Fund allocations supported Syrian refugees in Iraq (see also below). The Fund also acted swiftly to respond to a cholera outbreak by allocating $4.5 million to UNICEF and WHO in October and November. The agencies provided water, sanitation and hygiene services and cholera vaccinations in 62 camps in 13 governorates.

Syrian Arab Republic

23. The Emergency Relief Coordinator allocated $77.4 million in 2015 to meet needs related to the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic. Within the Syrian Arab Republic, $29.9 million went to eight organizations to bring assistance to millions of Syrians affected by the ongoing conflict and the waves of new displacement in 2015. The largest grant was to WFP to provide food assistance; the second-largest

grant was to UNHCR to provide essential items such as mattresses, blankets, plastic sheeting, water containers, cooking utensils and hygiene kits for internally displaced Syrians. Fund allocations provided small-livestock holders with emergency agricultural assistance. Allocations were also used to provide support in health, water and sanitation and cash assistance for Palestinians living in the country.

24. The first allocations to Iraq in early 2015, through the underfunded emergencies window, focused on immediate needs for Syrian refugees in Iraq. Recipient agencies used Fund allocations to provide food assistance, address high-priority unmet needs related to water, sanitation and hygiene, and prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence. A total of $8 million was provided for assistance to Syrians in Iraq. The Fund also allocated funds to Lebanon ($18 million), Jordan ($9 million), Turkey ($9 million) and Egypt ($3.5 million) for humanitarian assistance related to the Syrian crisis, notably to aid some of the 4.8 million Syrians registered as refugees in these countries.

B. Neglected crises and the role of the Fund

25. Large numbers of people have lived for long periods in places where there is no spotlight on their plight; but lack of attention does not make their needs any less real. Through its underfunded emergencies window, the Fund provided relief for some of them and turned attention to these crises. The Fund's first underfunded-emergencies round of 2015 focused on life-saving action in 12 countries. A total of $77.4 million went to relief work in response to the Syrian crisis, with allocations for aid agencies working in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. Another $13 million helped humanitarian response operations in Africa's Great Lakes region (Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda). The second underfunded-emergencies round, in September 2015, focused on people affected by massive population displacements linked to long-standing crises in Afghanistan, Darfur (the Sudan), the Horn of Africa and Myanmar. A total of $8 million allowed aid agencies in Afghanistan to help sustain life-saving assistance; another $8.4 million went to fund humanitarian response, including emergency shelter and improved access to health care, for people in Bangladesh and Myanmar. Some $21 million went to fund relief efforts in Chad and the Sudan to meet needs linked to the long-standing crisis in the Sudan's Darfur region, and $33 million went to agencies working in Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia to aid vulnerable communities facing recurring cycles of conflict and climatic shocks.

C. Natural disasters

26. The Fund's agility enabled early, crucial humanitarian response to a number of natural disasters in 2015. These included climate-related emergencies ranging from floods (Malawi and Mozambique in the first quarter of 2015) to cyclones (Vanuatu in March), earthquakes (Nepal in April and May) and the effects of El Niño. At times, the Fund was the first to provide funding, and in some cases relief supported by the Fund was available to beneficiaries within one day after the cataclysmic event. Overall, the Fund disbursed $143.1 million for needs related to climatic and

geophysical events, which represents a substantial increase compared with the amount of funding disbursed in 2014 for similar emergencies.[1]

27. An effective and rapid funding process underpinned the Fund's response to humanitarian needs related to El Niño which started in 2015 and continues into 2016. Depending on the country affected, people experienced floods, drought and food insecurity, leading to humanitarian needs and displacement. Based on forecasts and consultation with humanitarian partners in countries vulnerable to El Niño, the Fund allocated funding for the early action needed to mitigate El Niño's effects. The Fund disbursed $58.8 million for El Niño-related relief projects in El Salvador, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, Malawi, Somalia and Zimbabwe. Much of the funding covered projects related to food needs, nutrition (including preventing and treating acute malnutrition), and mitigating food insecurity through agricultural and other support to livelihoods.

28. In February 2015, the Emergency Relief Coordinator approved allocations of $6.9 million and $3.2 million to meet the needs of people affected by flooding in Malawi and Mozambique respectively. In Malawi, assistance focused on camp coordination, shelter, food assistance, and water and sanitation projects. In Mozambique, agencies used Fund allocations to provide food aid, shelter and protection to 160,000 people. Fund allocations enabled FAO to provide maize, vegetable seeds and tools to 5,590 small-scale farming households so that they could take advantage of the moist post-flood conditions, jump-start food production and help to shorten the length of their dependence on food aid. Also in Mozambique, the Fund allocated about $750,000 to WHO and UNICEF in March to stem a cholera outbreak exacerbated by the flooding. This benefited more than 171,000 people, including 3,593 people admitted for cholera treatment.

29. Immediately following Tropical Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu in March 2015, the Fund allocated $5 million to kick-start relief operations. The storm affected about 160,000 people, more than half of the country's population, over an 80-island archipelago. Fund grants of nearly $650,000 enabled WFP to set up a shared logistics and telecommunications function that streamlined the approach by agencies to overcoming the major logistical hurdles. Agencies were thus able to provide crucial water and sanitation services (including clean water for drinking, cooking and bathing); emergency health, nutrition, education and protection services; non-food items including shelter; and food aid and agricultural support to re-establish food security. Thousands of households benefited across a wide swath of the country.

30. When an earthquake struck Nepal in April 2015, affecting about 5 million people across mountainous terrain, $14.9 million was released through the Fund's rapid response window within 48 hours. The initial allocation helped to meet urgent needs ranging from shelter and non-food items (IOM), health services (UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO), water and sanitation (UNICEF), protection of women and children (UNFPA and UNICEF) and emergency food aid (WFP). The Fund later disbursed an additional $4.2 million for Nepal after mudslides in June affected communities and limited the ability of humanitarian actors to reach survivors. The Fund's efficient approval process for releasing funds immediately helped to attract

[1] Allocations related to climatic events in 2014 accounted for 9 per cent of total disbursements. In 2015, the share increased to 26.4 per cent, or 30.4 per cent including allocations for geophysical events (earthquake).

other financial resources to the substantial relief effort. For example, the Fund was the first to provide funding towards earthquake relief by IOM in Nepal. Following the allocation, IOM was able to mobilize 10 donors. The Fund provided a total of $19.1 million for relief in Nepal.

D. Regional approach to funding from the Fund

31. In 2015, the Emergency Relief Coordinator released more than $58 million[4] to fund life-saving assistance for 2.4 million people affected by Boko Haram-related violence in West and Central Africa. Some $27.2 million was allocated in March 2015 and an additional $31 million was provided in late 2015 and early 2016. Funding included $14.1 million to assist 248,000 newly displaced people, vulnerable host-community members and women and children at risk of abuse and forced recruitment by Boko Haram in Cameroon. A total of $10.5 million was used to assist more than 187,000 vulnerable internally displaced persons, returnees, refugees, third-country nationals and host-community members in Ch[illegible]ho needed urgent protection, health, nutrition and food assistance, as well as non-food items, shelter and education. An additional $13.5 million was used to assist 350,000 displaced people who fled from border areas, as well as vulnerable host communities in Niger, and $20 million was used to assist more than 1.6 million internally displaced persons and vulnerable host communities in Nigeria.

32. Another example of the regional approach followed by the Fund was its response in the Horn of Africa. This approach helps relief agencies to address the complex and interlinked regional consequences of violent conflict, mass displacement of people and deepening food insecurity. In 2015, El Niño exacerbated existing vulnerabilities in countries in the Horn. The Fund's capacity to respond through both funding windows helped organizations to meet emerging needs in this complex area in a timely way. Assistance to the countries in the Horn of Africa reached $58.3 million in 2015 and included $27 million for Ethiopia, $25.3 million for Somalia, $3 million for Djibouti and $3 million for Eritrea.

IV. Use and management of the Fund

Advisory Group

33. The Advisory Group of the Central Emergency Response Fund was established following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 60/124 to advise the Secretary-General, through the Emergency Relief Coordinator, on the use and impact of the Fund. In 2015, the Advisory Group met in Geneva (May) and New York (October). In May, the group received a report on the progress of the High-level Panel on Humanitarian Financing and began to look ahead to the World Humanitarian Summit. The Group also discussed Fund allocations to level-three emergencies. In October, the group further discussed the World Humanitarian Summit and assessed results from two scoping studies on the future of the Fund and whether or not the Fund should raise its funding target.

[4] The amount includes disbursement in early 2016.

New underfunded emergencies methodology

34. In 2015, the methodology for assessing vulnerability, risk and underfunding continued to be improved in order to more strategically allocate funds for humanitarian response through the underfunded emergencies window. The objective of the methodology was to identify emergency situations with the most severe levels of underfunding, which is the primary criterion for inclusion in the underfunded-emergencies round. The number of data sources used to determine vulnerability was increased, in particular to include information on protection. The Fund secretariat has combined the data sources into the index for risk and vulnerability, which covers the full range of factors influencing the humanitarian situation. The index for risk management, an open, global humanitarian risk analysis platform forms the main component of the index for risk and vulnerability. In addition to using the factor of a low level of funding, which remains the primary criterion, the index for risk and vulnerability allows for the identification of those emergencies where humanitarian needs are most urgent. The new methodology was used for the first time in the 2016 underfunded-emergency allocation rounds.

Fund partnerships

35. In 2015, the Fund secretariat improved its analysis of partnerships with respect to Fund grants. The Fund provides direct funding only to United Nations agencies, but its grants are implemented in close partnership with local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), host Governments and Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, in all cases providing crucial funds to first responders. Through the far-reaching partnership networks of United Nations agencies, hundreds of implementing partners receive close to one quarter of all Fund allocations through subgrants each year. Typically, more than half of subgranted funds are for local front-line responders. Analysis of information provided in narrative reports submitted by resident coordinators/humanitarian coordinators on the use of grants provided by the Fund in 2014 showed a continuation of the trend of increased involvement by international NGOs and national and local partners in the delivery of humanitarian action funded by the Fund. In 2014, more than $106 million was subgranted to agencies' implementing partners, not including the value of in-kind support in the form of relief supplies procured by United Nations agencies with Fund allocations. Of this, $51 million went to the operations of 133 international NGOs in 38 countries, and $55 million reached a reported 421 local partners in 37 countries through subgrants. Funding to local responders through United Nations partnerships represents a significant financial resource and an unparalleled global reach that complements other funding sources for local organizations. The Fund will continue to work with recipient agencies and other partners of Inter-Agency Standing Committee members to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of partnership arrangements with respect to Fund grants between United Nations agencies and their partners.

Monitoring

36. In 2015, the Fund piloted new guidance on monitoring the Fund at the field level, which will be rolled out in 2016. The guidance clarifies roles and responsibilities in monitoring the implementation of Fund grants, and it outlines activities that must take place to ensure the availability of necessary information for resident coordinators/humanitarian coordinators and the humanitarian country team

during and after the implementation phase. The guidance note is meant to complement, not replace, existing Fund guidance, such as the guidance on narrative and financial reporting requirements. In addition, the Fund clarified the information-sharing responsibilities of agencies with respect to Fund-related information in its standard allocation communication to resident coordinators/humanitarian coordinators. The Fund also developed a standard template allowing agencies to easily provide interim project status updates to the resident coordinators/humanitarian coordinators during the implementation phase, in particular highlighting potential challenges that may affect planned delivery or require corrective actions. The template will be fully rolled out in 2016 along with the monitoring guidance.

Transparency

37. Full transparency has always been a core attribute of the Fund. Details of all allocations and contributions are published in real time on the Fund website and through the Financial Tracking Service. In 2015, the Fund augmented its transparency by beginning to publish data under the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standards. This means that the Fund adheres to the IATI agreed framework and data from the Fund is easily comparable to data from the hundreds of other organizations that adhere to the same standards. In addition to publishing under the IATI standards, in 2015 Umoja (the United Nations enterprise resource planning system) was rolled out for the Secretariat, including the Fund. This is expected to increase transparency and enable more efficient and timely business processes, including faster disbursement of grant funds.

Performance and accountability framework and reviews of the Fund

38. Through the Fund's performance and accountability framework, independent reviews of relief work using grants from the Fund in 30 countries have been carried out since 2010. In 2015, this review base was expanded to include reviews of relief work carried out through Fund allocations in two large-scale regional crises centred on the Syrian Arab Republic (including Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon) and South Sudan (including Ethiopia, Kenya, the Sudan and Uganda). A third review was undertaken of the Fund's impact on work in Iraq beyond the scope of programmes related specifically to Syrian refugees in that country.

39. The Iraq and Syrian Arab Republic crisis reviews will be published once finalized.

40. The Fund allocated $116 million in 2014 to South Sudan and neighbouring countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, the Sudan and Uganda) in connection with the South Sudan crisis. The review of efforts in South Sudan found the Fund to be an important contributor to the start-up of life-saving interventions and a strong reinforcement of the role of the resident coordinator/humanitarian coordinator. Monetary contributions from the Fund in South Sudan were small compared with the need and with funding from other sources. However, the timeliness of allocations was important and the Fund played a crucial role in improving the living conditions of internally displaced persons. The full report is available on the Fund website.

Reporting of the Fund

41. In 2015, the Fund continued to improve its reporting, with a focus on achieving simpler and less time-consuming reporting from partners, ensuring that information in the reports is fully used to improve Fund performance and to document results and added value. The most recent complete analysis, as at early 2016, is for a full annual reporting cycle of funds disbursed in 2014. It is based on resident coordinator/humanitarian coordinator reports on the use of Fund allocations. This analysis of the 2014 reports is based on data from 76 reports covering 589 agency projects in 45 countries, for a total funding of $461 million. The quality and timeliness of these reports have continued to improve. The analysis looked at numbers of people reached with the funds, the scope of subgranting of funds by recipient agencies to their implementing partners, and the value added of the Fund as assessed by the resident coordinators/humanitarian coordinators and the country teams. In addition, lessons learned submitted through the reports were grouped by theme and analysed and will inform relevant follow-up initiatives by the Fund. Reports presenting the analysis of the various data are available on the Fund website.

42. Reporting on the number of people reached with the help of the Fund has become better and more rigorous. The complete analysis of 2014 funding found the following numbers of beneficiaries of the Fund by sector in 2014: health (an estimated 19.8 million people reached through 142 projects in 38 countries, and an additional 32.7 million people reached through Ebola-related public-health campaigns in West Africa); food (an estimated 7 million people reached through 67 projects in 35 countries); water and sanitation (an estimated 6.6 million people reached through 75 projects in 32 countries); protection (an estimated 4.1 million people reached, including 400,000 children, in 83 projects in 23 countries); nutrition (an estimated 4.1 million people benefiting in 28 countries); and agriculture and livelihood support (an estimated 3 million people reached through 35 projects in 21 countries). Significant numbers of people were reached in camp management (1 million), shelter and non-food items (800,000), mine action (500,000), education (200,000) and multisector assistance for refugees (1.1 million).

43. NGOs and other partners are extremely important to the success of the Fund in reaching people with timely, life-saving assistance. Reports on the use of 2014 grants show that recipient agencies made 1,214 subgrants to implementing partners, corresponding to a total value of $106 million out of $471 million, or 22.6 per cent of total 2014 funding, not including the value of in-kind support in the form of relief supplies procured with Fund allocations. This was the highest-ever reported in terms of number and volume of subgrants. A total of 12 per cent of all funds (or about half of all subgranted monies) went to 421 different local implementing partners: national NGOs, host Governments and national Red Cross/Red Crescent societies in 37 countries. The remainder went to the operations of 133 international NGOs in 38 countries.

44. In terms of the strategic value added of the Fund beyond its value as a source of additional humanitarian funding, analysis of the resident coordinator/humanitarian coordinator reports indicates that for nearly 90 per cent of rapid-response allocations from the Fund, the teams responsible for coordinating the humanitarian response in each country found that the Fund allocations led to fast delivery of assistance, while for just over 10 per cent of allocations, it was noted that the funding partially led to fast delivery of assistance. All but two reports found

that the Fund had helped partners to respond to time-critical needs, whereas the remaining two reports concluded that the Fund had partly done so. In addition, more than 90 per cent of reports found that Fund allocations helped to improve coordination among the humanitarian community. Close to 60 per cent of reports found that Fund allocations had in some way helped to improve resource mobilization from other sources. Approximately 40 per cent assessed that Fund allocations might have helped to mobilize additional resources, and two reports concluded that the Fund had not played a role in securing additional funding.

Accountability to affected people and gender inclusion

45. The Fund is not an operational entity, therefore it cannot directly incorporate accountability to affected people measures into humanitarian programming. However, the Fund promotes accountability to affected people by ensuring that it is incorporated and made visible throughout the Fund programme cycle. Accountability to affected people is reflected in Fund proposals through a number of questions in the Fund application template at different levels of the submission (i.e., at strategic, sectoral and project levels). To strengthen information on accountability to affected people in the Fund programme cycle, it has been included as a separate project-reporting item for recipient agencies in the Fund narrative reporting template. This provides the Fund secretariat with systematic feedback on how commitments to accountability to affected people have been considered in projects financed from the Fund (this information is publicly available through the resident coordinator/humanitarian coordinator reports posted on the Fund website).

46. The Fund secretariat implemented a new and improved application template in January 2015 after comprehensively testing it in 2014 for numerous rapid-response applications and during the second underfunded-emergencies round in 2014. The new template requires more detailed information on issues related to gender and gender-based violence. The application template asks for sex- and age-disaggregated data, and gender is mainstreamed throughout. For example, a gender analysis is requested in the section on humanitarian context and response. Applicants are asked to describe how gender was taken into account during the prioritization process, and gender issues should, when possible, be reflected in the logical framework of individual Fund projects. The new template includes a gender marker. As a follow-up to the commitments to keep girls and women safe during emergencies made at an event in London in 2013,[5] the template now includes a dedicated self-assessment question on whether gender-based violence has been considered in project design.

Fraud management

47. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Fund secretariat take the potential misuse of grants from the Fund extremely seriously. In 2015, the Fund Advisory Group endorsed guidelines for procedures for sharing fraud-related information with donors. Following this, the Fund secretariat developed standard operating procedures on how it will handle cases of potential fraud. These include guidance on the frequency and type of information concerning possible cases that must be reported by recipient agencies and guidance on when

[5] Keep Her Safe event. See www.gov.uk/government/news/greening-girls-and-women-must-be-kept-safe-in-emergencies.

and how donors should be notified of credible cases of potential fraudulent use of funds. These new procedures and guidelines were implemented in 2015. In early 2016, one case of possible fraudulent use of funds by partners under a project using a Fund grant was reported to the Fund secretariat. Communication and follow-up were conducted in accordance with the guidance and the standard operating procedures. Based on evidence gathered during investigations by the respective agency's investigative office, it was found that the allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

Reduction in programme support costs

48. In 2015, the Fund secretariat continued its efforts to make the Fund as efficient and effective as possible, and began to explore the possible reduction of its programme support cost from 3 per cent to 2 per cent. The reduction is not expected to have any adverse impact on Fund management and it is estimated that it will annually channel an additional approximately $4 million into the Fund's humanitarian programming budget. This estimate is based on the funding level of $450 million per year.

10-year anniversary of the Fund

49. A high-level conference in December 2015 (see below) kicked off the Fund's 10-year-anniversary campaign. Member States, observers, United Nations officials and representatives of the humanitarian community attended the event, which acknowledged the indispensable role of the Fund and the importance of its agility within the humanitarian financing landscape. The Fund's 10-year anniversary coincides with an important juncture in the vision for humanitarian financing, with a course for the future established at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, in May 2016.

Learning engagement

50. In 2015, the Fund secretariat continued to roll out a revamped programme for engaging Fund focal points and decision makers, which had been piloted in 2014. The programme's interactive workshops target key participants in the Fund process, including resident coordinators/humanitarian coordinators, United Nations country teams, humanitarian cluster and sector leads, and relevant staff of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The workshops provide an array of tools for field and headquarters personnel to use in navigating the challenges of deploying funds strategically and prioritizing the most urgent humanitarian needs. The Fund secretariat delivered five field-based workshops and two webinars to staff in the field in 2015. Three headquarters sessions were delivered for crucial stakeholders who support the Fund process. This strategic engagement led to more focused, better-prioritized Fund submissions from humanitarian country teams. A more extensive roll-out is scheduled to take place in 2016.

V. Funding levels

51. The total amount of pledges for 2015 was $409.5 million, of which $400.3 million was received as at 31 December 2015 (including $12.4 million received in 2014 and $387.9 million received in 2015) from 54 Member States and

observers, one regional authority (the regional Government of Flanders, Belgium), one international organization (the International Maritime Organization), a private sector entity (the Coloplast Corporation) and individual donors. In addition, between 1 January and 31 December 2015, $9.8 million was received against 2014 pledges, and $76.5 million was advanced for 2016 by a number of donors. The shortfall of $49.7 million compared with the funding target of $450 million was largely due to exchange rate fluctuations driven by a strong United States dollar vis-à-vis donor currencies, coupled with the inability of core Fund supporters to provide additional contributions at the end of the year. The Fund used reserves to disburse more than it received, given the high level of demonstrated need in the applications received. As a consequence, the Fund's reserve was much lower at the end of 2015 than in previous years.

52. The top 10 donors pledged 89 per cent of all pledged contributions in 2015, which is nearly identical to the proportion contributed by the top 10 donors in 2014. The top 10 donors in 2015 were (in order of contribution level) the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Germany, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Belgium and Switzerland. Andorra, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates increased their contributions in 2015 compared with the previous year. Colombia, Cyprus, Lithuania, Malaysia, the Philippines and Serbia returned to the donor base. However, there was little progress in significantly increasing contributions from donors outside the top 10 contributors.

53. From its inception in 2006 through to December 2015, the Fund received $4.2 billion in contributions from 125 Member States and observers, three regional authorities, as well as foundations, corporate donors and individuals. It supported humanitarian response in 93 countries.

54. The annual high-level conference to pledge for 2016 was held in New York in December 2015. More than 38 Member States, observers and regional Governments made pledges to the Fund in an amount equivalent to nearly $252 million. This was significantly lower than the previous year because a number of key donors delayed announcement of their pledges.

VI. The Fund for the Future: conclusions and recommendations

55. Thanks to the generosity of donors, in 2015 the Fund achieved the objectives assigned to it by the General Assembly.

56. The number of people requiring humanitarian assistance and the funding needed to meet their needs are reaching record highs, and the funding gap for humanitarian action to meet current needs is wide. At the same time, the resources available from the Fund have remained unchanged.

57. Against this backdrop, the Secretary-General has called for the Fund to be expanded to $1 billion by 2018 to help close the funding gap. This proposal received broad support from Member States at the round table on financing at the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016. An expanded Fund is needed to ensure that it keeps pace with the escalating needs and remains an effective tool able to respond to the current scale, complexity and range of crises. An expanded Fund would have a greater impact while still maintaining its focus, scope and speed.

58. At the World Humanitarian Summit, Member States embraced the idea of a grand bargain: donors and aid partners must work together to put more means into the hands of those people and communities requiring assistance, and do so more efficiently. The Fund already operates along these principles and has proved itself to be an efficient, effective and transparent instrument for delivering humanitarian assistance.

59. Broadening the donor base and cultivating larger contributions from existing donors, coupled with innovative financing solutions, will enable the Fund to respond even more effectively to the core goal of all humanitarian actors: meeting urgent needs and saving the lives of millions of people experiencing hardship around the globe.

Annex I

A. Central Emergency Response Fund grant element: statement of financial performance from 1 January to 31 December 2015[a]

(United States dollars)

Revenue	
Voluntary contributions[b]	528 995 470
Other transfers	92 164
Investment revenue[c]	990 304
Other exchange revenue	143 576
Total revenue	**530 221 514**
Expenses	
Grants and other transfers	453 711 412
Other operating expenses[d]	34 652 146
Total expenses	**488 363 558**
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	**41 857 956**

B. Central Emergency Response Fund grant element: statement of changes in net assets from 1 January to 31 December 2015[a]

(United States dollars)

Net assets as at 31 December 2014	**263 930 460**
Change in net assets	
Surplus for the year	**41 857 956**
Total change in net assets	**41 857 956**
Net assets as at 31 December 2015	**305 788 416**

[a] Statements were prepared in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

[b] Represents voluntary contributions in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards. See annex II for contributions pledged for 2015.

[c] Includes net investment revenue of $110,624 earned on the loan component of the Central Emergency Response Fund in accordance with General Assembly resolution 66/119.

[d] Includes programme support costs (United Nations) of $13,146,476 and net exchange losses of $20,168,460.

Annex II

Central Emergency Response Fund grant element: contributions pledged from 1 January to 31 December 2015

(United States dollars)

Contributor	*Pledged contributions*[a]
Member States and observers	
Andorra	44 139
Armenia	5 000
Australia	9 201 954
Belgium	10 893 246
Canada	28 627 069
Chile	30 000
China	500 000
Colombia	235 000
Côte d'Ivoire	10 000
Cyprus	14 223
Denmark	14 212 621
Djibouti	1 000
Estonia	113 379
Finland	7 583 965
Germany	43 777 556
Guyana	2 179
Iceland	100 000
India	500 000
Indonesia	200 000
Ireland	12 195 122
Italy	1 133 787
Japan	1 402 809
Kuwait	1 000 000
Liechtenstein	271 769
Lithuania	22 676
Luxembourg	4 535 147
Malaysia	50 000
Mexico	250 000
Monaco	56 689
Myanmar	10 000
Netherlands	59 588 299
New Zealand	2 601 908
Norway	50 248 099
Pakistan	10 000
Peru	4 167

Contributor	*Pledged contributions*[a]
Philippines	10 000
Poland	204 823
Portugal	56 689
Republic of Korea	4 500 000
Russian Federation	1 500 000
San Marino	2 188
Saudi Arabia	150 000
Serbia	5 000
Singapore	50 000
South Africa	172 563
Spain	2 197 802
Sweden	53 212 209
Switzerland	10 302 667
Thailand	20 000
Trinidad and Tobago	20 000
Turkey	450 000
United Arab Emirates	1 000 000
United Kingdom	82 661 982
United States	3 000 000
Viet Nam	10 000
Sovereign Military Order of Malta	5 000
Total, Member States and observers	**408 962 726**
Regional and local authorities	
Government of Flanders (Belgium)	340 136
Total, regional and local authorities	**340 136**
Others	
Private donations outside the United Nations Foundation (under $50,000)	38 178
Private donations through the United Nations Foundation (under $50,000)	99 756
Cigna Foundation through the United Nations Foundation	50 000[b]
Total, others	**187 934**
Total	**409 490 796**

[a] Contributions are based on the pledged year of the donors and differ from the amount reported as revenue under the International Public Sector Accounting Standards. Actual received contributions may differ from the originally recorded pledges owing to fluctuations in exchange rates.

[b] Contribution of $50,000 collected through the United Nations Foundation in 2014 but received by the Fund in 2015.

Annex III

Total grants allocated from the Central Emergency Response Fund from 1 January to 31 December 2015

(United States dollars)

Country	*Rapid response*	*Underfunded emergencies*	*Total*
Yemen	44 250 104		44 250 104
Syrian Arab Republic		29 926 021	29 926 021
Ethiopia	17 003 929	10 015 968	27 019 897
Somalia	5 300 084	19 989 234	25 289 318
Sudan	9 079 147	15 116 739	24 195 886
Nepal	19 113 716		19 113 716
Lebanon		18 004 139	18 004 139
Malawi	16 925 025		16 925 025
Chad	10 515 475	5 998 567	16 514 042
Myanmar	10 405 409	5 367 651	15 773 060
Democratic Republic of the Congo	6 792 923	8 047 670	14 840 593
Cameroon	14 071 268		14 071 268
Afghanistan	5 802 858	7 983 646	13 786 504
Niger	13 741 648		13 741 648
South Sudan	13 446 494		13 446 494
Iraq	4 490 040	7 988 899	12 478 939
Central African Republic	11 556 590		11 556 590
Pakistan	11 000 547		11 000 547
Rwanda	7 984 746	2 498 220	10 482 966
Nigeria	9 889 075		9 889 075
Haiti	9 157 785		9 157 785
United Republic of Tanzania	9 156 319		9 156 319
Jordan		9 000 346	9 000 346
Turkey		8 999 844	8 999 844
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	6 276 701	2 000 285	8 276 986
Zimbabwe	8 110 712		8 110 712
Algeria	5 051 640		5 051 640
Vanuatu	5 038 408		5 038 408
Ukraine	4 920 172		4 920 172
Mozambique	3 996 365		3 996 365
Egypt		3 500 065	3 500 065
Uganda	3 238 788		3 238 788
Djibouti		3 000 059	3 000 059
Colombia		2 994 382	2 994 382
Eritrea		2 993 896	2 993 896
Bangladesh		2 992 959	2 992 959

Country	*Rapid response*	*Underfunded emergencies*	*Total*
El Salvador	2 710 000		2 710 000
Mauritania	2 532 163		2 532 163
Burundi		2 495 246	2 495 246
Madagascar	2 294 798		2 294 798
Honduras	2 187 908		2 187 908
Philippines	1 512 074		1 512 074
Libya	1 491 012		1 491 012
Peru	914 395		914 395
Chile	777 854		777 854
Total	**300 736 172**	**168 913 836**	**469 650 008**

Note: The amount of total allocated funds in this annex is based on the approval of the Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator.

Annex IV

Central Emergency Response Fund loans: statement of changes in net assets from 1 January to 31 December 2015[a]

(United States dollars)

Net assets as at 31 December 2014	30 000 000
Change in net assets	
Surplus for the year	–
Total change in net assets	–
Net assets as at 31 December 2015	**30 000 000**

[a] Statements were prepared in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

Annex V

Central Emergency Response Fund loans from 1 January to 31 December 2015

(United States dollars)

Agency	*Country/region*	*Year of disbursement*	*Amount*
Outstanding loans as at 1 January 2015			
World Food Programme	Syrian Arab Republic	2013	27 000 000
Total			**27 000 000**
Loans disbursed from 1 January to 31 December 2015			
OCHA	OCHA regional/country offices	2015	7 327 854
Total			**7 327 854**
Loans repaid from 1 January to 31 December 2015			
World Food Programme	Syrian Arab Republic	2013	27 000 000
OCHA	OCHA regional/country offices	2015	7 327 854
Total			**34 327 854**
Outstanding loans as at 31 December 2015			
Total			–

Abbreviation: OCHA, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat.